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RUMFORD MEDAL OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

By the kind permission of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, we are enabled to give the readers of the *Journal* the engraving of the medal, which serves as the frontispiece to this number. It is taken from Dr. Ellis's *Life of Count Rumford*, which was published last year by the Academy. The subject of the Memoir, Benjamin Thompson, was born March 26, 1753, in Woburn, Massachusetts, and died August 21, 1814, at Auteuil, France. The King of England conferred on him the honor of knighthood, in 1784, and the Elector of Bavaria raised him to the dignity of a Count of the Holy Roman Empire, in 1791. Rumford was the former name of the New England village, (now Concord, New Hampshire,) in which he had first enjoyed the favors of fortune, and he selected this as his title. He is one of the few Americans who have had successful careers in Europe, as philosophers or philanthropists.

During his lifetime he endowed the Royal Society of London, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, with funds to be given to practical discoverers in Heat and Light. As a grateful recognition of his services, the Academy are now publishing the scientific and philosophical works of their benefactor. This plan will be carried out in four volumes, of which the first constitutes the *Life*, from which the engraving is taken. Fortunately the duty of editing this work devolved upon the Rev. George E. Ellis, D. D., who prepared the Memoir. He has brought together a large collection of original papers, letters and journals, and has so interwoven them, that with the aid of his graceful pen, they make a most readable volume. The book is printed in an elegant style, and is richly illustrated with engravings. It contains copies of the several medals that have been struck and given by the Royal Society and the American Academy, for the important discoveries, according to the conditions of the gift.

USES OF NUMISMATICS.

THE following paper is an extract from one originally prefixed to a collection of portraits illustrative of Cibber's Apology, which is reprinted in the "American Bibliopolist," for February last, (published by J. Sabin & Sons, New York.) The arts of painting and engraving are closely related to the Science of Numismatics; the arguments in favor of the first two, addressed to those who have incautiously applied the epithet of trifling, to the exemplification of points of history or works of literature by the works of art, apply with equal force to the Science of Numismatics:

"There naturally exists a desire amongst mankind to obtain a sight of any individual who, either in his public or private life, has made himself a conspicuous object of remark. With most people such a desire too generally arises from an innate and idle curiosity, and when this is the case, is frivolous and contemptible. That, however, it may be made productive of material advantages cannot be denied; the external appearance of a man has a stronger influence over the senses, and forms on our minds a deeper and more lasting impression of his character, than the relation of an historian, however it may be enforced by the powers of rhetoric, is able to effect. Thus the faculties of the mind, acted upon by the perception of sight, are unresistingly drawn into those reflections which teach us to emulate the virtues and shun the vices of others. When, however, this desire of ocular testimony cannot, from various concurrent causes, be gratified, there still remains the pleasing substitute of pictorial resemblance, to gratify the imaginations of some, and to furnish matter of contemplation to others of a more vigorous and speculative genius. It may fairly be presumed that no man ever yet beheld the portrait of a Cato, or Leo the Tenth, without reflecting on and revering the strict morality and truly patriotic virtues of the former, and that large attainment by the latter of useful and ornamental learning, which he employed in the restitution to his unhappy country of that peace and tranquility of which, by the contentions of ambition, it had been so long deprived. To the historian we are indebted for the transmission of accounts of virtuous actions from age to age, and to the painter for restoring them to our memory, by a faithful delineation of the characters who practiced them.

"Next in importance to the art of Painting is that of Engraving; which differs alone from the former in the manner of execution; for the proportion of figures, the perspective and the various degrees of light and shade must necessarily be subject to the same rules in each. Some of the chief attributes of Engraving seem to be adequately described in the following lines:

"Blest Art! whose aid the painter's skill endears,
And bids his labors live through future years,
Breaks that restraint, which to the world unkind,
To some one spot the favorite work confin'd;
Gives to each distant land, each future age.
The features of the warrior, saint, or sage;
The grace that seems with beauty's queen to vie;
The mild suffusion of the languid eye:
Till with the painter's proudest works at strife,
The fragile paper seems to glow with life!"

"It may perhaps be remarked by some, who spurn at everything not having for its immediate object the benefit of society in a substantial point of

view, that the faculties, so elegantly described by the poet, are in their nature wholly intellectual; that they may be calculated to gratify the propensities of certain individuals, and to confer on them some amusement in their leisure hours; but they may ask, Has not the art a more permanent utility to recommend it? Can it not boast more extensive and beneficial results than the amusement of a small portion of the community? To these enquiries it may be answered that the advantages accruing to society at large from the practice of the art, are of the greatest import; that, on account of its many departments, it affords employment and profit to thousands of individuals, even independently of the artists themselves. If then such is the tendency of the engraver's art, ought it not to be encouraged by the purchase and collection of its productions by all men whose fortunes and inclinations favor the pursuit? It may reasonably be asserted that the art could never have arrived at the degree of perfection that it has done within the last century, had it not been attended in its progress with that encouragement which it has so freely experienced.

"Relaxation from worldly occupations, both bodily and intellectual, so that it be rational in its object, and reasonable in its duration, is so essential to man's existence that it is scarcely necessary to advert to it. Relaxation, however, as Locke observes in his work on Education, 'does not consist in being idle,' but in the practice of measures to prevent our being so. An industrious and well-regulated mind will at all times, when not engaged in business, seek for occupation; but of what description, or to what extent, must wholly depend upon its own properties. If every man's intellect equalled in strength that of the famous D'Aguesseau, whose memory should ever be regarded by France, and indeed all other nations, with esteem and reverence, we should find only a change of study necessary to its relaxation: '*Le changement d'etude,*' said that honest chancellor, '*est toujours un delassement pour moi.*' But the serious nature of the amusement, practiced by this great man, is very far from being adapted to the common order of understanding; the dispositions of men are various and capricious; that which serves as an amusement to one, may be often uncongenial to the ideas and propensities of another; and as no standard can possibly be fixed for the follies of mankind, a liberality of opinion should be observed towards those of each other; and although the pursuit of illustration should not at any time be ranked among them, it would still have a claim to the indulgence that is due to every amusement, not leading to the violation of any positive or constructive rule of morality and virtue.

"To assert that the subject of discourse may be converted to the purposes of a moral life, may, at first, perhaps, give rise to levity; but a nice discrimination is not requisite to inform us, how far it is instrumental to the attainment of so desirable an object. Corrupt and abandoned habits are usually formed in early life, and may be attributed to various causes; among which, the want of a fit application of leisure hours is not the least. A total relaxation of the mind, for any length of time, is apt to give rise to those desires which, we no sooner feel, than we seek to gratify. If the mischief were to end here, it would not be extensive; but that frequency of indulgence, which usually ensues a previous gratification, too often produces a system of idleness and dissipation. It is then submitted that these evils are capable of being partially, if not entirely, avoided by a resort to those amusements, the advan-

tages of which, in the hours of recreation, are thus expressed by Dr. Johnson in *The Rambler*, that 'whatever busies the mind without corrupting it, has, at least, this use, that it rescues the day from idleness; and he that is never idle will not often be vicious.' Principally on the foregoing sentiments of so allowed a moralist as was Dr. Johnson, does he, who now pretends to advocate the cause of illustration, depend for a verdict in its favor; for the reasoning employed by the learned writer is of such general use and application, that all amusements of an innocent tendency, be they intellectual or mechanical, are equally the objects of it, and thereon may safely repose their claim to universal favor and support."

COUNTERFEIT "N. E." AND PINE TREE MONEY.

RELICS OF BY-GONE DAYS.—We had the pleasure of seeing to-day some of the *Pine Tree money* of Massachusetts, which was dug up some time since at Chelsea. There were a shilling, sixpence, threepence, and two pence, dated 1652, in almost as good preservation as if they had been coined one year only, every letter and figure upon them being perfectly clear and distinct; they may probably have been entombed for more than one hundred and fifty years. The bottle in which they were found, and several of the coins, were purchased by a gentleman to be presented to the British Museum.—*Boston Journal*, June 16, 1856.

The day after the appearance of the above, we made diligent inquiry as to the finder of the coins. No one at the office of the *Journal*, in which it appeared, could give any information in relation to the matter. The "oldest inhabitant" in Chelsea had never heard of it, not even "Mrs. Partington," who resided there, of whom we made inquiry.

THE COUNTERFEIT PINE TREE MONEY.—It is remarkable to observe to how many different means unprincipled people resort to replenish their empty purses. Too proud to work for an honest livelihood, and too indolent to engage in some legitimate pursuit, their wits are constantly at work devising new ways to fatten themselves upon the industry of others. Their craving thirst for lucre must be satisfied at all events, even though it be at the sacrifice of every sense of honor and principle. The most novel example of this has lately come to our knowledge. A few weeks since a paragraph appeared in several of our papers, stating that a large number of pine tree coins had been recently dug up in this vicinity. No sooner had this announcement been made than complete sets of this coinage poured into our city. "N. E." shillings and sixpences, before so rare, together with some other pieces never before seen, were to be found exposed for sale in this city. The extraordinary appearance of such a number of coins before held so rare, naturally attracted considerable attention from every one; and called for the investigation of the curious in such matters as to the cause of this great and sudden windfall. Some few of our most credulous and superstitious citizens were pretty well settled in their own convictions that the spirit of good old John Hull had entered among us once more, and some even fancied that at certain times of

night, distinct sounds of an old rusty, creaking screw press could be heard from the quarter where the old mint house once stood.

It has, however, turned out that all these pieces are counterfeit, and made by a man in New York city, who represents them to be originals and some of the lot found in this vicinity, and by these means he has disposed of numbers of them to our antiquarian friends, at exorbitant prices. Such a piece of rascality is seldom revealed, and it would be well if some of those who have been victims of this extortion, would ferret out and bring to justice the fellow who would resort to such a contemptible mode to *replenish his empty purse*. NUMMUS.—*Boston Transcript*, Aug. 19, 1856.

COINS. *Editor of Transcript*:—Will you please give the following extract, from the catalogue of the famous Pembroke collection of coins and medals, in relation to the Good Samaritan piece which has been imitated by the late falsifier of pine tree money.

"Massachusetts shilling, much rubbed, but showing on both sides the remains of the types and legends. By the dexterous use of a punch, some artist has contrived to produce on this rubbed coin, a worn representation of the group of the Good Samaritan, and the words FAC SIMILE, which have given rise to much discussion. See Rud. pl. xxx. 10, and note *m*, page 368, vol. iii., Pemb. p. 4, t. 14. Unique."

From this you will perceive that the piece in question is merely a pine-tree shilling, indented by a punch on which there was a representation of the Good Samaritan. J. C.—*Boston Transcript*, Aug. 25, 1856.

In a note to the writer, the counterfeiter said:—"I can obtain the whole series, viz. : 12-6-3-2-1, five pieces, by making an exchange with some of my medals ; if you wish it, I will do so." "I shall have in my possession, shortly, a fine specimen of the Good Samaritan." T. W.—*Mercer Street, New York*, July 11, 1856.

PINE TREE MONEY.—We have lately been shown a series of the pine-tree coins issued by the Colony of Massachusetts, consisting of the shillings, sixpence, threepence, and twopence. The act for the emission of the three first of these pieces was passed in the year 1652, but the authority for coining twopences was not passed until ten years afterward. These were the only coins emitted by the Colony of Massachusetts except the blank pieces, the shilling having on the obverse the letters N. E. for New-England, and on the reverse XII.; the sixpence* having on the obverse N. E., and on the reverse, VI. The authority for the striking of these pieces was passed only a few months previous to the authorizing of the regular pine-tree series. The N. E. pieces are very rare, and command exorbitant prices.

Some unprincipled person has had the meanness to counterfeit all of these pieces, for sale at monstrous prices, representing them to have been found at Chelsea, Mass., and several of our antiquarian citizens here, and, we have understood, several in Boston, Philadelphia and other places, have been imposed upon by them. It would be well, therefore, for every one who is

* Since the publication of this article, two three-pences of the N. E. type have been found ; one is in the Collection of Yale College, and the other in the Cabinet of Mr. W. S. Appleton, of this city, a facsimile of which is on the seal of the Boston Numismatic Society, as shown on the cover of the *Journal*.

fond of such relics to be on their guard. The counterfeits are generally not as heavy as the original pieces, and bear the appearance of the use of the file; but the N. E. pieces are much heavier than the original. There are likewise Good Samaritan shillings and Pine-Tree pennies out in abundance (exact copies from the engraving in Felt's Massachusetts Currency), which, it is needless to inform the public, were never authorized to be struck, and are consequently false upon their face, as there are no such coin in existence, unless these miserable botches can be called such. It would be well if some of those who have suffered by this base imposition would come forward and bring this man to justice.—*N. Y. Tribune*, Aug. 28, 1856.

UNITED STATES CENTS.

1793. Of the Chain Cent there are several varieties. The legend is United States of Ameri. Some have a plain edge, others have Stars and Stripes on the edge. Another has a wreath instead of the links, around the words One Cent. There is a large number of varieties of this die, the chief marks of difference being in the arrangements of the leaves under the Head. A third, of this date, bears the Head of Liberty, with a pole over the shoulder surmounted by a Liberty Cap, which hangs back of the head. The reverse is like the wreath cent, and on the edge One Hundred for a Dollar.

For varieties and prices of cents of 1793, see a Table prepared by J. N. T. Levick, *Journal of Numismatics*, Vol. III., pp. 47, 84, 92 and 93, and Vol. IV., p. 40. For an article and plate of Varieties of the Cents of 1793, by S. S. Crosby, see Vol. III., p. 93, and Vol. V., pp. 13 and 16. At 20 Public Coin Sales, from 1855 to 1868, according to the Table of J. N. T. Levick,* one hundred and fourteen cents of 1793, have brought the sum of one thousand six hundred and sixteen dollars and eighty-one cents. The highest price paid for a single specimen was one hundred and ten dollars, which sold, three years later, for one hundred and forty-five dollars.

1794. This Cent bears the Liberty Cap Head. For varieties of this date, see pamphlet by Dr. Maris, Philadelphia, 1869, pp. 15, and *Journal*, Vol. IV., pp. 22, 97.

1795. The marked differences are a thick and a thin planchet. The thick cent has the words One Hundred for a Dollar, around the edge. The weight of the cent was reduced during this year, and the edge inscription was—from the thinness of the coin—omitted.

See *Journal*, Vol. V., p. 63, for a communication of Dr. Augustine Shurtleff, on Cents of 1795, '96, '98 and 1832.

1796. The Liberty Cap appears on a small portion of this date; the larger portion of the issue bear the fillet head.

1808. The fillet head is on a portion of this date; in the latter part of the year the Head appears, with a band on which is the word Liberty, facing to the left.

1816. The appearance of the Head is changed, from a difference in the arrangement of the hair.

* See *Journal of Numismatics*, Vol. III., p. 47.

1817. A portion of this date has thirteen Stars, and another fifteen. See *Journal*, Vol. IV., pp. 68, 80, for notice of fine specimens of this date, and of '18, '19 and '20, found uncirculated.

1839. One variety of this date has a smaller head, and the arrangement of the hair is different. The dash under the word Cent was omitted.

The general appearance of the subsequent dates to 1857, when the copper cent was discontinued, is much the same.

INDIAN CURRENCY IN NEW JERSEY, 1672.

WAMPUM was the chief currency of the country. Great quantities had been formerly brought in, but the Indians had carried so much away, it was now grown scarce; and this was thought to be owing to its low value. To increase it, the governor and council at York, issued a proclamation in 1673, that instead of eight white and four black, six white and three black wampum should pass in equal value as a stiver or penny; and three times so much the value in silver.

Eight white wampum or four black, passed at this time as a stiver, twenty stivers made what they called a guilder, which was about sixpence present currency. The white wampum was worked out of the inside of the great conques into the form of a bead, and perforated to string on leather. The black or purple was worked out of the inside of the mussell or clam-shell; they were sometimes wove as broad as one's hand, and about two feet long; these the Indians call belts, and commonly give and receive at treaties, as seals of their friendship. For lesser matters a single string is given. Every bead is of a known value, and a belt of a less number is made to equal one of a greater, by so many as is wanting, fastened to the belt by a string.—*Smith's History of New Jersey*, 1765.

AN EARLY BOSTON MEDAL.

In a little Spanish work, *Noticias de la Provincia de California*, written by a Dominican, and published at Valencia in 1794, the author in Letter ii, p. 56, speaking of the order given by the Governor to arrest an American trader on the coast, says: "We do not know what crime he committed. But this is certain, that the said English American, named John Kendrig, had coined money in his name, and I had four of the pieces. On one side was a sea with two vessels, with the name of Washington; and on the other some letters that expressed the expedition he was going on to our continent."—*Historical Magazine* for April, 1863, page 130.

This paragraph unquestionably refers to a medal that was struck to commemorate the fitting out of two vessels for trading on the North-West coast, one of which was commanded by Captain John Kendrick. The charge against him, of coining money, is, of course, a fiction. An account of this piece may be found in the *Journal of Numismatics* for October, 1871, page 33, under the heading of *An Early Boston Medal*.

THE SYRACUSAN MEDALLION.

AMONG the examples of ancient medallic art, those of Sicily are, perhaps, the most numerous and beautiful. That termed, *par excellence*, "the Sicilian Medallion," is a most exquisite performance.

These pieces are decadrachms, and from the word *ΔΡΑΜΗ* on some, are supposed to have been struck for rewards to victors in the public games. They bear a most elegant female head, surmounted by four dolphins. *Rev.* a figure guiding a quadriga; Victory above, presenting the driver with a garland.

In the exergue are various pieces of armor, so disposed as to show that they formed a part of the prize contended for. The name of the artist (*KIMON*) appears on some of these pieces, which, notwithstanding their being far from rare, generally bring high prices. At a public sale in London, in 1841, there were not less than twenty-four of these medallions, which produced from £10 up to £35; some of them were duplicates.

There is a countless variety of beautiful coins in silver and brass, of the same city; and specimens may be obtained at reasonable prices, particularly those in the inferior metals.—Akerman's *Ancient and Modern Coins*.

AMERICAN COINAGE.

The bill before Congress providing for the "Revising and amending the laws relating to the Mints, Assay Offices and Coinage of the United States," has had the effect of opening up a budget of facts and statistics of more than ordinary interest to the public. The chairman of the committee before which the bill is pending, made a report not long since before the New York Chamber of Commerce, giving in a succinct form a history of the coinage system of the United States, and its workings for the last thirty-four years. During this period, notwithstanding the suspension of specie payments for ten years, the Mint, with its branches, including the Assay Office in New York, coined the enormous amount of \$1,093,638,086, an average amount of \$32,165,826 yearly. The coinage of the last year, ending June 30th, 1871, amounted to \$40,157,405, consisting of gold coin, \$21,302,473; stamped gold bars, \$13,201,089; silver coin, \$1,953,905; stamped silver bars, \$3,544,180; nickel coin, \$283,760.

The present coinage bill has been in force without alteration for thirty-eight years. One of the changes sought in its amendment affects that section relating to the imposition of charges by government on refining, stamping and coining the metals used in making the currency of the country. It is argued that the government has no right to make any charge beyond the actual cost of coinage for the reason that the gold and silver of the country belong to the people and not to the government. The actual cost of refining gold per ounce does not exceed one and a half cents, and yet the mint charge ranges from eight to eleven cents. This method of turning an honest penny was discarded by Great Britain and France half a century ago as unworthy a great nation. It is hoped that it will, at once, be discontinued by our government.

THE ORIGIN OF MARK NEWBY COPPERS.

For the following paper we are indebted to the Rev. James Graves, Hon. Secretary of *The Royal Historical and Archæological Association of Ireland*. A large number of the St. Patrick's Half-pence was brought from Ireland, to New Jersey, by Mark Newby, one of the first proprietors, and their circulation was authorized by the Assembly of the Colony, in 1682, where they were known as "Mark Newby's Coppers." The communication in reference to this coin, printed below, was first read at a meeting of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, by the author, Aquilla Smith, M. D., a member of the Royal Irish Academy, and a gentleman well known for his antiquarian and numismatic tastes.

Dr. Robert Cane, in his communication "On the Ormonde Coin and Confederate Money," published in the first volume of the Transactions of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, p. 442, has collected much valuable historical evidence respecting the Confederate Assembly of Kilkenny, and deduced from it inferences with regard to these coins, which he has endeavored to support by very ingenious reasoning.

Before I attempt to controvert any of the arguments advanced by Dr. Cane, in reference to the coin commonly called St. Patrick's,* I shall trace the history of these pieces as far as I have been able to collect it from the several writers who have noticed them.

The first published account of the St. Patrick coin is given by Evelyn in his "Discourse of Medals, Antient and Modern:" folio, 1697. At page 133, pl. lxiv., the coin is accurately engraved, and briefly described as follows:—"Where a crown'd King is (as we picture *David*) playing on the *Harp*, over which the crown of *England*. FLOREAT REX. Reverse, A mitred Bishop (or St. *Patrick*) holding a double cross, and standing between a *Church* and a *Serpent*, which he seems to drive away. QUIESCAT. PLEBS. is, I think, *Irish* coin." The coin here described may be supposed to be of silver, as it is placed among the silver medals of the reign of Charles the Second.

The next in date is Thoresby, in 1715, who mentions among the coins of the reign of Charles the Second, "An *Irish* (silver) Medal, with a crowned king playing upon a Harp, as K. *David* is represented, over which the Crown of *England*, FLOREAT REX. Rev., St. *Patrick*, or a mitred Bishop, with a double Cross, QUIESCAT. PLEBS." Here he refers to Evelyn, and adds, "These were also originally of Copper, and were current, I presume, for *Half-pence* and *Farthings*, for they are of Different Dimensions; both Sizes agree in the Figure of the King with a radiated Crown and Harp, and the Crown of *England* in a different Metal (viz. Brass upon the Copper) and *Floreat Rex*; but the Reverses are different, the larger have St. *Patrick* in his Episcopal Habit, with the Crosier and Staff, preaching to the People, ECCE. GREX. Behind him is a Shield with III. and II. The lesser have a Church behind the same Tutelar Saint, who is casting out of that Island all venomous Beasts with the STAFF OF IESUS; of which the Native *Irish* tell many wonderful Things, QUIESCAT. PLEBS."†

* This designation was applied by Swift in the "Drapier's Letters," No. iii., dated August 25, 1724, where he mentions "the small St. Patrick's coin which passeth now for a farthing,—and the great St. Patrick's halfpenny."—*Swift's Works*, vol. iv. p. 127. Faulkner, Dublin. 8vo, 1772.

† Ducatus Leodiensis: folio, 1715, p. 378, n. 481.

Bishop Nicolson copies Thoresby's description, and only adds that these pieces "are still common in Copper and Brass;" and "are current for *half-pence* and *farthings*." He describes them along with the coins of the reign of Charles the First.*

Leake, in his "Historical Account of English Money," first published in 1726, notices these "copper pieces, which have passed for halfpence and farthings in *Ireland*; but for what purpose they were coined, and by whom, is uncertain." He describes the type of the obverse, and says: "Of these are two sorts, of different dimensions, the larger weighing from five penny-weights ten grains, to five penny-weights fifteen grains; and the smallest from four penny-weights, to three penny-weights eighteen grains, and have different reverses; the biggest has the figure of St. *Patrick*, with a crosier in his right [left] hand, and a small cross [trefoil or shamrock] in his left [right], which he holds out to the people about him, and by him a shield, with figures therein like *Fers de Moline* [Mill-ring or Inkmoline], four and two, *Queves d'Ermine* [Ermine tails], perhaps intended for the arms of the Titular Popish Metropolitan, ECCE. GREX. The smaller pieces have St. *Patrick*, with a double cross in his left hand, a church behind him, holding out his right hand, and driving away from the church a parcel of venomous creatures, no doubt, meaning thereby the different sects of Protestants, QUIESCAT. PLEBS. Of the latter are silver pieces, about the same weight as the copper ones, and these silver ones, no doubt, were Medals, as Mr. *Evelyn* esteemed them; but whether by him rightly placed to *Charles* the Second, is a question. Bishop *Nicholson* places them to *Charles* the First, and in his reign it is most probable they were struck by the Papists, when they rebelled in *Ireland*, and massacred the Protestants, pretending to act under the King's authority, for they are manifestly of a Popish stamp. Amongst other acts of their general assembly at *Kilkenny*, in 1642, they ordered there should be a seal for the Kingdom (Rymer, tom. xx. p. 537); that the enemies should not be called by the name of *English*, or *Protestants*, but the *Puritanical* or *Malignant Party*; that they should consider of a model of civil government; that Money should be levied; that Coin and Plate should be raised, and that there should be forthwith coined the sum of four thousand Pound to pass current in the Kingdom, according to the proclamation, or act, published by direction of the assembly. These were, perhaps, the before-mentioned copper pieces, and they took the fashion of inserting a bit of brass in the Copper from the King's latter farthings, the better to prevent counterfeiting: but for what value they were originally intended, or made current, is uncertain. Afterwards they passed for the value the common people put upon them; and being something heavier than King *Charles* the Second's best *Irish* Halfpence, went currently for such."†

Harris, in his edition of Sir James Ware's works, published in 1745, in his account of the Irish coins of the reign of *Charles* the Second, says, "In this Reign were two or three Kinds of Copper Half-pence coined," and after describing the type, informs as that "These afterwards passed for Farthings, and a larger Sort were coined for Half-pence, with this Difference; on the Reverse, St. *Patrick* standing before a Crowd of People, with the Arms of the City of *Dublin* at his Back, being three Castles, and this Legend, ECCE GREX.

* Irish Historical Library: 8vo. 1724, p. 170.

† Second edition, 8vo. 1745, p. 338; and third edition, 1793, p. 338.

John Putland, Esq., has among his curious Collections the two before-mentioned Pieces struck in Silver, no way differing but in the Metal, and that they are milled, which Copper Money never is; and this proves, that they were struck in Silver for Medals, as Mr. *Evelin* thinks, and not as Proof Pieces.*

Simon, in his "Essay towards an Historical Account of Irish Coins," first published in 1749, 4to, notices the Rebel Crown, and in the Appendix, No. xlviii., quotes Rymer's *Fœdera* to the effect,—“November 21, 1642. It is ordered, That the right honourable the earl of Castlehaven, and such others as his lordship shall call to his assistance, shall present unto the supreme council of this kingdom an institution and order of knighthood, concerning the honour of St. Patrick, and the glory of this kingdom, which the supreme council may confirm and ratify so far as they see cause;” and at page 48 says, “It seems therefore more probable that this coin was struck by the rebels, by virtue of this act of their assembly; as were, probably, the copper pieces, called St. Patrick's Half-pence and Farthings, which I likewise ascribe to them, and suppose to have been struck about this time: for they too well allude to some passages in this act, to doubt of their having been coined on this occasion, in honor of St. Patrick and of their new order of Knighthood.” Having described the type of each coin, he observes that “both have a graining round,” and that “There are still preserved, by the curious, some few silver pieces, with the same impressions and inscriptions of these copper pieces: it is thought that they were struck as medals, but for my part I think they were struck upon the same occasion, and intended by the Kilkenny-assembly to pass for shillings.”

Having quoted the opinions and statements of the best authorities respecting the meaning of the devices on the St. Patrick's coin, and the period at which they were struck, I shall proceed to examine the evidence on which Dr. Cane relies for the opinions he has advanced, and the inferences which he has drawn from his authorities, and arrange them in the order most convenient for discussion, so as to avoid needless repetition.

First,—“Once we admit that the Confederates had a coinage, there is no coin more likely, or so likely, to be theirs than the one under consideration;” and “that these coins are those of the Confederate assembly of Kilkenny;” where they were, “no doubt, first issued.”

The extract from Rymer's *Fœdera*, quoted by Leake and Simon (Appendix xlviii.), corresponds with the document of the date November 15, 1642, published in Dr. Cane's paper. This very important proclamation proves “that the Confederates had a coinage” of copper farthings and half-pence, and from the particular description of the type enables us to identify without any doubt the coins issued by order of the Assembly; but I cannot discover that it gives any support to the opinion that the St. Patrick's coin was “first issued” by “the Confederate assembly of Kilkenny,” or that it was in any respect connected with that body.

Second.—“That it was minted upon the Continent for the use of the Confederate assembly,” and “was transmitted to Kilkenny to be there distributed.”

That the St. Patrick's coin, or “*Rinuncini Confederate money*,” as Dr.

Cane proposes to designate it, "was minted upon the Continent," and "transmitted to Kilkenny," is mere conjecture, unsupported by any fact or authority. Dr. Cane supposes it "may have formed some portion of the monies brought to the council, from the Continent, at different times during the sitting of the council of the Confederate body;" but the authorities he has quoted mention particularly the large amount of *dollars* and *crowns*, which were distributed in Ireland by the foreign agents; nor is it probable that any foreign power would send subsidiary coin in a metal, which from its bulk would be very inconvenient to transmit.

Dr. Cane also remarks that—"The execution is more elaborate than any Irish coin of that period, while in its letters and outlinings it bears a marked resemblance to the Continental coin of that time, especially to pontifical coinage, and is in some parts of its design exceedingly in keeping with the opinions and sentiments of the Nuncio, Rinuccini."

This conjecture might have some weight, if the exact "period" was known at which the coin in question was minted, or if any particular Continental or Pontifical coin was mentioned with which a comparison might be instituted.

That the art of cutting dies, however, was not altogether extinct in Ireland, during the latter half of the seventeenth century, may be inferred from a Dublin token issued previous to 1680, which bears the same type as the reverse of the small St. Patrick, and which is engraved in Snelling's second additional plate to Simon, fig. 7. The Cork tokens issued by "William Ballard," in 1677, and "Edmund Yeomans," in 1678, as well as the Eniskean penny of 1678, are remarkable for their emblematic designs, and are not much less elaborate in execution than the St. Patrick's coins.

Third.—"That they were coin answering to shillings, pence, and halfpence;" and "that the silver coin is not a model piece, but from a separate die."

Dr. Cane has adopted the opinion of Simon, who believed that the silver pieces were "intended by the Kilkenny-assembly to pass for shillings;" and adds: "as regards the objection that they, the silver specimens, cannot be shillings because they 'differ in form, aspect, and weight,' I beg it to be remembered that I have put it markedly forward that they are foreign coins, and not coined in these kingdoms, but brought over by Rinuccini for the use of the Confederate army. But what I call the shilling is smaller and thicker than the shillings of the day, it is unworn, and weighs about 115 grains."

(To be continued.)

DOUBLE SOVEREIGN OF EDWARD VI.

The following described coin, sold at the Hollis Sale, in London, May 14, 1817, brought the sum of £99, about five hundred dollars:—"No. 336, Edward VI., the double Sovereign of his 4th year, the King in a chair of State, *mint mark*, the Dragon's Head; *reverse*, the arms of England and France, *inscribed*, 'Jhesu autem transiens per medium illorum ibat,' *weighing* 476 grains, engraved in Folkes, pl. 8, from this coin; *highly preserved and extremely rare*." Bought by Willett.

A MASS OF COINS, FROM THE DEBRIS OF ORIENTAL CITIES.

BY ROBERT MORRIS, LL. D.

SECRETARY OF THE "AMERICAN HOLY LAND EXPLORATION."

Editors of Journal of Numismatics:

At your request, I jot down "first impressions" produced by the examination of a mass of ten or eleven hundred specimens of bronze coinage just received, through our dragoman and collector, Rolla Floyd, Esq., from Joppa, Syria: the fourth lot of this class, numbering in all more than *nine thousand specimens*, that have been sent me for distribution through the operations of our Society. It is understood that in the present article I make no attempt at classification or scientific description, giving only first and hasty "impressions."

For an opening paragraph, I quote a sentence from one of our circulars, under the head of "ancient coin:" "There is nothing that so gratifies the intelligence of an antiquarian, nothing that so forcibly reveals the sense of the long-vanished years, as a genuine COIN from Palestine, especially when one considers *in what soil* it has so long been hidden, and *what ruins* have so long concealed it from the eye and hand of the ignorant. A piece of antique money is even more redolent of antiquity, when rightly viewed, than an antique tower or pillar; because the latter is always seen *in ruins*, defaced, scarred by foes, dilapidated, gnawed by the tooth of time, and suggestive only of the imbecility of man, laboring to build for eternity; while the coin, after its rust has been carefully removed, lies before us *a perfect piece of human workmanship*, its portrait, epigraph and allegorical devices executed in a style that modern art strives after, glowing with the pompous titles of antiquity, and mystical of events deemed worthiest of preservation. Holding this coin in your hand, you handle an *ancient monument*, genuine, complete, a page in the history of the human race!"

In *weight*, this package of eleven hundred coins will balance about four pounds. There are none of the "first bronze," the largest being only "second bronze," the others running as low in measure as one-fifth of an inch, or less. In a hasty inspection of their types I should say that one-twentieth of them have the Byzantine insignia in some form, usually in the large capital M., of which Humphrey, speaking of Anastasius, A. D. 491, says: "The large M., the monetary index beneath the cross, is thought by some to be the Greek numeral 40, expressing the value of the coin as that of forty *nomia*." * * * On the copper, the large M of the coinage of Anastasius and his immediate successors disappears in the reign of Phocas, (A. D. 602.)—*Humphrey's Coin Manual*, p. 371. But I would ask, *en passant*, how this "M" can represent *a specific sum*, when I have it on bronze coins of several sizes and weights from 12-10ths to 6-10ths of an inch in diameter!

The next largest number of special types in this pile before me is the thick, heavy bronze of Egypt, all of nearly the same size, say 5-10ths. These are in such good preservation, their "images and superscriptions" standing out so legibly, that I incline to the opinion they are *counterfeits*, only I can conceive of no reason why Oriental rogues should counterfeit *copper money*, when, at the best, it scarcely brings the value of old metal in traffic. I bought one hundred specimens of this particular class, at the foot of the Pyramid of

Cheops, and bargained then and there with Mohammed Nubian, my "dragon-man," for twelve hundred more, at prices absurdly low, even for Egypt. By the way, if Cicero is right in his *Jucunda est memoria præteritorum malorum*, the memory of that most *unhappy* hour at the foot of the Arab-haunted pile of Cheops, ought to delectate me enormously! But the coins I am referring to are beautifully wrought, their portraits are admirable, their *aquilæ* as fine as the living specimens that accompanied me (without invitation) from Tyre to Kabr Hairan and return. The peculiarity of these specimens is the exceeding *roughness of their edges*, as compared with the exquisite milling of the edges of coins made by our modern moneyers; and this suggests the thought that while the ancients made a finer type than we do, we far excel them in the edging.

The Roman coins "ex votis" are quite numerous in the collection before me. Often, upon a field only 4-10ths in diameter, the circle or oval embraces an inscription distinctly cut and legible, while the "image and superscription" on the obverse are so nearly illegible as only to yield their history by the comparison of several coins of the same Prince.

The "allocation" coins are equally numerous: several present the *quadrigæ* with the "stately-stepping steeds," and at least one has the traditional *she-wolf and twins*, referring to the period B. C. 800, so famous in the history of Rome. Flowers, trees, animals in all forms abound. The palm tree, with its unmistakable top, tells of eastern lands that acknowledged the Roman yoke. A very considerable number hold Coptic inscriptions, and a quantity equally great the barren, poorly-executed treasures of the Saracenic and Turkish rule. The cabalistic "s. c." gleams frowningly out through the verdigris that covers the face of Rome's Emperor, even as dust and ashes have long disguised the glories of *Senatus consulta*. "Temporum Felicitatem" tells of halcyon days when the borders being quieted, the Prince could retire his happy legions; "Concordia militum" speaks of jars and discords among the barons themselves quieted; "Tellus Stabilita" of the short-lived repose of a power never so happy as when at war.

Here comes one I had overlooked, a rude face of the "Man of Calvary" on the *obverse*, and in the ancient Greek letters on the *reverse*: *I. C. Th. S. Basilos Babilon*.

Coins with a crowned king on one side and a crowned queen on the other; coins with king and queen standing together; coins with victory crowning the commander; two score of coins in suspiciously fine preservation of Maximianus; a number of very fine coins in "small brass" of Constantinus Magnus; an American 3-cent piece; several Catholic medals of "Oh, holy Mary, ever-Virgin," &c.; a coin of "Augustus III. Rex Pol"; a "Clementia Aug.," (if only any body cared now whether the "Augustii" were *clement* or not!); a coin thickly crusted with verdigris, (which, who can tell me how to remove?); a noble "Ptolemy" of 8-10ths diameter, its obverse *convex*, its reverse holding a grand eagle, *concave*; and so they run, and I might fill a dozen sheets more in this way.

Should the readers of the *Journal* care for this sort of gossiping about coins, from one who knows so little of their scientific *emplacement*, I will in future issues, describe some of my personal experience in Eastern villages as an "antique trader." To sit an entire ten hours, amidst a group of lo-

quacious (and rapacious) Arabs, your pocket the one object of their greedy eyes, and then retire to rest with the happy consciousness of *getting the better of them all in trade*, is an experience novel enough to amuse, if not instruct the coin-student, and I acknowledge the pleasure it gives me to relate it! It is doubtless the self-conceit of an old man to say, with Horace:

Sibi quivis

Sperat idem: sudet multum, frustaque labore,
Ausus idem.

WEIGHT OF HANNAH (HULL) SEWALL.

See Vol. VI., p. 21. I notice just now, the inquiry of D. W. P., in the July number of the *Journal of Numismatics*, regarding the weight of Hannah Hull, the mint master's daughter, who married Judge Sewall. The precise facts, copied by myself from Judge Sewall's Ledger, are in the notes to the Diary of Hull, the mint master, in the third volume of the Antiquarian Society's Transactions. Miss Hull's or Mrs. Sewall's weight was one hundred and twenty-five pounds. The dowry was five hundred pounds in the colonial standard which gave six shillings to a dollar.

I believe Hutchinson is the first authority in print for the untrue statement, that her dowry was £30,000, paid in shillings. There is no evidence that there were ever 600,000 pine tree shillings,—the amount necessary for this dowry,—in existence at one place at one time.

E. E. H.

March 22, 1872.

COINS OF EDWARD I., II., III.

The Silver Coins of the first three Edwards are, in most instances, difficult to distinguish from each other. The pennies, half-pennies, and farthings of the London and Canterbury mints, are exceedingly abundant, the first being, perhaps, the commonest coins in the English series.

The characteristics of this coinage are sufficiently described by an old versifier:

"Edward did smite round penny, half-penny, farthing;
The cross passeth the bond of all; throughout the ring:
The King's side, whereon his name was written;
The cross side, what city it was in coined and smetten.
To poor man ne to priest, the penny frayes nothing;
Men give God aye the least—they feof [endow] him with a farthing.
A thousand, two hundred, fourscore years and mo,
On this money men wondered, when it first began to go."

Akerman's *English Coinage*, London, 1848.

WEAR OF OUR SILVER COINS.

Half dollars of the old standard, previous to 1837, of *average wear*, were found to have lost five and a quarter tenths of one per cent. A recoinage at the Philadelphia mint of \$38,000, produced \$37,800.

TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

Thursday, April 11, 1872.—The monthly meeting was held this afternoon. The records of the last meeting were read and approved. After the regular business was transacted, Mr. Crosby showed a variety of pattern and experimental pieces struck at the Mint, among which were two cents of 1856, of different proportions of nickel, another in copper, and the same without date or inscription; also, two pattern cents of 1857, different; two varieties of the two-dollar-and-a-half piece of 1857, in copper; two pattern cents, Indian head, large planchet, without dates, and various others of 1858 and '59.

Adjourned,

SAMUEL A. GREEN, *Secretary*.

Thursday, May 7.—The monthly meeting took place at 4 o'clock, P. M. Mr. Alfred Sandham, of Montreal, Canada, was elected a corresponding member. Mr. E. J. Cleveland, of Elizabeth, N. J., presented a catalogue of his collection of Medals, Coins, &c., to be sold in New York on the 7th and 8th inst.

Mr. Thomas H. Wynne, corresponding member, presented a set (10) of the Revenue Stamps of Virginia, 1813-14. They are of uniform size and design, circular in form, measuring one inch and an eighth in diameter; embossed on white paper, the design representing an arrow and an olive branch crossing each other—the word "Virginia," and the denomination in Roman letters around the border. Massachusetts in 1799-1802, embossed her Revenue Stamps upon the document liable to the tax. They were of different denominations—that of twenty-five cents, 1799, was an eagle holding in his beak a shield; around the device TWENTY-FIVE CENTS and MASSACHUSETTS. On that of 1802, same device and denomination and an additional stamp, on the outer circle of which COM. REV. C. S. and in the centre thirteen stars.

Mr. Seavey showed a complete set of American gold and silver coins from 1850 to 1860, inclusive, in proof condition.

Adjourned,

SAMUEL A. GREEN, *Secretary*.

Thursday, June 6.—The regular monthly meeting was held this afternoon, at four o'clock, the President, Mr. Colburn, in the chair. The Secretary read the record of the last meeting.

Mr. Crosby showed four specimens of the "Newby Coppers," size 16, which were circulated in New Jersey, under the authority of the Colony, in 1682. The Ob. bears the legend "Floreat: Rex:" a crown divides the legend; below is a Harp, the player, said to represent King David, kneeling. Rev. "Quiescat Plebs," St. Patrick with a double cross, church in the distance. One in silver and three in copper, the latter have a small piece of brass inserted where the crown is impressed. He also exhibited four of the same type, one of which was in silver, and three in copper; also three of another type, size 18, Ob. same as the smaller size, Rev. "Ecce Grex," St. Patrick, with crosier and shamrock, followed by the people. The last seven pieces are from the collection of Robert C. Davis, Esq., of Philadelphia. Mr. Pratt showed a beautiful series of U. S. Gold, from the collection of the late

William G. Stearns, of Cambridge, a member of the Society. It consisted of the following pieces: Eagles, 1795, 6, 7, 8, 9, 1800, 1, 3, 4, 38, 39, 40, 41. Half Eagles, 1795, 7, 8, 9, 1800, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 23, to 1840 inclusive. Quarter Eagles, 1796, 7, 8, 1802, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30, to 1839 inclusive. Also various gold pieces, among which was a Guinea of James II., in fine condition; and various medals in silver.

Mr. W. H. Lewis, of Katonah, N. Y., presented a photograph of two Indian relics found in an Indian grave in Cayuga county, N. Y., one representing a woman with legs and feet extended, holding a child; the other a figure of a swan; a fine specimen of Indian work.

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Adjourned to *Thursday, July 11.*

SAMUEL A. GREEN, *Secretary pro tem.*

VOCE POPULI HALF-PENCE.

Will any of your readers tell me whether I have been correctly informed that two coins or tokens which I have, are an Irish half-penny and farthing struck by Prince Charles Edward? The coins I mention are of copper, and bear on the obverse a profile turned to the right, with an inscription, "Voce Populi;" on the reverse a harp, with "Hibernia" and the date "1760" under the harp. What is the history of these coins?—F.

[Pinkerton in his "Essay on Medals" remarks: "In 1760 there was a great scarcity of copper coin in Ireland, upon which a society of Irish gentlemen applied for leave, upon proper conditions, to coin half pence; which being granted, those appeared with a very bad portrait of George II, and 'Voce Populi' around it. The bust bears a much greater resemblance to the Pretender; but whether this was a piece of waggery in the engraver, or only arose from his ignorance in drawing, must be left to doubt." In Lindsay's "Coinage of Ireland," 1839, the coin is engraved in the fifth supplementary plate, No. 16, and in the advertisement, p. 139, the following remarks on it: "This curious variety of the 'Voce Populi' half-pence exhibits a P before the face, and illustrates Pinkerton's remark that the portrait on these coins seems intended for that of the Pretender; it is a very neat coin, perhaps a pattern."—ED.]—*American Bibliopolist*, April, 1872.

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LETTER FROM MR. W. E. DUBOIS.

Editors of the Numismatic Journal :

You allowed me, once before, to write familiarly about our friend Mr. Mickley, who has been for three years on an exploration through all Europe, and parts of the adjacent continents. He was looking for all that is curious, not only in the numismatic and antiquarian lines, but also the buildings and works of art, the appearances of town and country, and the ways and customs of the people generally.

I am happy to inform you of his safe return, on the second day of June. I remembered the fate of some other numismatic friends, and hoped he would not form another case. Let me explain. Some thirty years ago, there were four of us, in Philadelphia, engaged in forming cabinets of coins; three on private account, one for the public. We often conferred together, and helped each other. As time rolled on, one was buried in the Pacific Ocean, on his way home from California; another went down in the Arctic, returning from Liverpool; the other two went and came safely; and Mr. Mickley is one of them. Yet he was not always out of danger. You were told about his being knocked down and nearly killed, in Constantinople. An equally dangerous but more classic fall (one perhaps which some admirers of Tully would have risked) was down Cicero's well, in Cæsar's Palace, at Rome. It did not kill him, but he shudders at the thought of it.

I was in hopes to tell you, in time for the July Magazine, of what he has done for the Mint, in procuring cabinet coins; but his boxes are not unpacked, and what I may have to state thereon, must not be done in a hurry. I believe he is going to bring us down to the last dates, in most of the European issues. He has also, at my desire, succeeded in getting (with much difficulty) a coin of the ancient city of Philadelphia. Herein I was very desirous to triumph over Appleton, Anthon, Wynn, Jenks, every body on this side of the Atlantic; and for more than one reason. In ancient history there was no Boston, no New York, no Chicago; but there was a Philadelphia. Twice is it named, and with honor, in the New Testament; and the amiable William Penn, eager to commemorate and to commend Brotherly Love, gave the name to his Capital—so eligibly poised between the freezing North and the blazing South. So when I get this coin in a conspicuous place, I expect it to attract the attention of all modern Philadelphians, as well as outside barbarians.

As yours is an Antiquarian Journal, it will come in play to tell what a strange sight he saw at Madrid. He stood face to face with the famous Charles V., who died in 1558! Not a phantom, nor a statue, but the very visage and corporal frame of the monarch, in imperial attire.

It happened in this way. Don Pedro, emperor of Brazil, traveling as a private gentleman, arrived at Madrid about the same time with Mr. Mickley. The body of Charles, which was embalmed, had never been seen since the obsequies; *requiescat in pace*, was the sacred injunction. But by an act of special favor, the lid of the sarcophagus was removed; and the distinguished visitors, from North and South America, saw the Emperor of Germany; King of Spain, of the two Sicilies, and Jerusalem; Archduke of Austria; Duke of

Burgundy, Flanders, and Tyrol; and Lord of America.—The nose was a little broken, and the skin was black as jet; but “to this complexion we must come at last.” It was a sublime incident in the history of the Reformation, when the intrepid Luther stood in the same presence, at the Diet of Worms, in 1521. At the end of three centuries and a half, it makes another appearance, to other spectators. There are pictures of the former audience; I could wish to have a photograph of the latter.

Mr. M. has complied with another request, in bringing me an Almanac from Finland; that I may know how the sun behaves, when he will not rise, and does not set.

Mr. M. looks about ten years younger than when he left, and twenty years younger than he really is. The reality may always be remembered, by the “cent of 1799,” which, as time advances, turns into gold.

W. E. DuBois.

U. S. Mint, Philadelphia.

NOVA CONSTELLATIO COINS.

Philadelphia, June 15, 1872.

Editors of Journal of Numismatics.

I purchased a collection of coins, recently, from Mr. Rathmel Wilson, of Wilmington, Delaware, containing a number of fine pieces, among which were the Nova Constellatio Dollar, or 1000 Mill piece, and the Nova Constellatio Half dollar, or 500 Mill piece. These pieces are rare, and I think are the most interesting of the Confederation series, being without doubt the first designs for a dollar and half dollar for the United States,—the date being the same as the cent, *i. e.*, 1783, and are pure silver, and in uncirculated or rather proof condition. The weight of the dollar is eleven dwts. and six grains,—the half dollar, five dwts. fifteen grains. I annex a copy of Mr. Wilson's letter to me in reference to these pieces.

JOHN W. HASELTINE.

Philadelphia, May 28, 1872.

JOHN W. HASELTINE, ESQ.

Dear Sir,—The history of the two coins which you obtained from me, viz. Nova Constellatio 1783, U. S. 1000, Nova Constellatio, 1783, U. S. 500, is as follows. They were the property of the Hon. Charles Thomson, secretary of the first Congress. At his death his property was left by will to his nephew, John Thomson, of Newark, Delaware. These two coins were found in the desk of the said deceased Charles Thomson, and preserved by his nephew during his life; at his death they came into the possession of his son Samuel E. Thomson of Newark, Delaware, from whom I obtained them. So you will perceive that their genuineness cannot be questioned; as they were never out of the possession of the Thomson family, until I received them.

RATHMEL WILSON.

SINGULAR DISCOVERY.

Editors of Journal.

In regard to the "singular discovery" mentioned on p. 84, April Number *American Journal of Numismatics*, a letter from Mr. Karnes informs me that the discovery were made about eight feet below the surface of the ground, where was found charred wood and a terrapin shell, the earth showing the marks of an impression of coarse cloth, but no "iron box" or "curious implements." The coins were kept by the finders, Mr. Karnes's slaves, save one piece which was given by them to Mrs. Karnes. This, the only one seen by Mr. Karnes, was of silver larger than a dollar, but it has long since disappeared, and he has no recollection of the inscription. With these meagre data it is hardly possible to form an idea of the character of the coins or by whom they were deposited.

T. H. W.

Richmond, Va., June 3, 1872.

TREASURE-TROVE.

A letter in the Richmond Times says, that lately several persons, while blasting a limestone rock near Buchanan, Botetourt co., discovered a cave, with an entrance of six or eight feet in height; and upwards of one hundred long, with two apartments. In the first they found some earthen ware and a large stone cross; on the cross there was some carving much defaced by time. A number of citizens, with a lantern, subsequently entered the second apartment where they found a skeleton seated on a huge iron chest, with its back resting against the wall. On opening this chest, they found it to contain gold coins perfectly smooth on one side and a cross with some characters on it on the other. The gold in the chest by weight is worth seven hundred eighty-two dollars.—*Boston Atlas*, Feb. 26, 1856.

"ORDER OF LIBERATORS" MEDAL.

See Vol. V, page 92. This medal was struck for the members of the association of the "Order of Liberators," instituted in 1826 by Daniel O'Connell.

There was a form observed in the enrolment of a member,—the medal was suspended from a green ribbon—which was placed on the neck of the person admitted to membership by the President on the occasion.—*Notes and Queries*, 4th Series, Vol. viii, p. 31.

NOVA CONSTELLATIO COIN.

The London *Morning Chronicle* of the 16th of March, [1786] has the following article:—"A correspondent observes, that the paragraph which has lately appeared in several papers, respecting a copper Coinage in America, is

not true. The piece spoken of, bearing the inscription, "*Libertas et Justitia, &c.*" [1785.] Rev. ["*Nova Constellatio.*"] was not made in America, nor by the direction of Congress. It was coined at Birmingham, by order of a merchant in New York. Many tons were struck from this die, and many from *another*; they are now in circulation in America, as counterfeit half pence are in England."—*Daily Advertiser*, New York, May 26, 1786.

PHILADELPHIA COIN SALE.

A collection of Coins, Medals, Tokens, Etc., was sold by Thomas Birch & Son, 1110 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, April 8, 1872. We give the prices brought by the most desirable specimens:

English Coins, Crown of Charles I., \$6.00; another type, 3.00: thirty shilling piece of James VI., of Scotland, 1669, 3.00.

Half Crown, Elizabeth, fine, \$5.25; William III. Shilling, uncir., 1.40; Anna, Shilling, fine, 1.00; Geo. II. and III. Shillings, fine, 1.00 each; Frankfort Two Thaler piece, 1861, 2.25; One Thaler do., 1859, 1.50; Maximilian Dollar, 1866, 1.80; Pattern Dollar of Chile, 1868, proof, 3.25; do. Twenty Cent piece, 1.87; Tetradrachm of Athens, 2.75; do. of Myrina, 3.25; do. of Macedonia, 4.00; do. of Alexander, 4.50; another, 2.25.

U. S. Coinage, New Orleans Mint, Dollar, 1850, \$2.75; do. 1860, 1.87; Half dollars, 1841, 1.50; 1842 and 3, 1.50 each; 1844, 1.00; 1845 and 6, 1.25 each; 1848, 1.05; 1849, 1.30; 1851, 1.00; 1860, 1.00; another, 1.12; 1861, 1.87—all fine. Quarter dollar, 1840, not milled, 3.50; 1842, large date, 1.12; 1856, 1.00. Medals, Henry Clay, by Wright, 2.00; Gen. Taylor, size 48, 3.15; Gen. Scott, size 56, 1.75; Eccleston's Washington Medal, 7.00.

Pattern Pieces, half dollar, 1838, flying Eagle, \$3.12; Nickel Cent, 1856, proof, 1.87; 5 "Cents," nickel, 1867, 1.00; Set of V. III. and I. Cent pieces, 1868, "Mint price \$9.00 a set," 1.00 each; Set of do., 1869, 1.12 each; Three Cent Piece, size of old Cent, Copper, 1863, 3.00; Proof Set, 1856, 19.00; do. 1858, 11.00.

Dollars, 1795, 1.55; do. fillet head, 2.75; another, 2.50; 1797, extra good, 4.25; 1798, do., 4.25; 1799, v. f., 4.00; 1800, f., 2.75; 1801, 2.75; 1802, f., 5.25; 1844, ex., 2.25; 1845, f., 2.25; 1846, v. f., 2.50; 1847, f., 2.00; 1848, f., 2.60; 1853, f., 3.25; 1857, f., 3.00.

Half Dollars, 1794, ex., \$2.50; 1795, uncir., 5.50; do., 2.25; 1797, 8.50; 1805, over 4, 2.00; 1807, 2.50; Quarter dollar, 1846, 1.00; Dimes, 1801, 1.25; 1803, 2.00; Half Dimes, 1797, 1.50; 1801, very poor, 1.00; 1844, uncir., 1.00; Half Eagle, 1803, 6.75; Quarter do., 1798, 6.50.

U. S. Cents, 1793, \$8.00; two others, 3.50 each; do. Liberty Cap., v. g., 5.50; 1794, uncir., 4.25; another, f., 2.25; another, 2.00; 1795, ex., 3.25; 1800, uncir., 5.50; 1803, uncir., 3.50; 1804, fair, 4.00; 1805, f., 3.00; 1806, f., 2.00; 1809, uncir., 24.50; 1810, do., 7.00; 1811, 2.25; 1813, 2.00; 1817, v. f., 2.25; do., 2.00; 1821, uncir., 5.75; 1827, v. f., 2.00; 1828, do. do.; 1829, v. f., 3.00; 1833, two, fine, 1.00 each; 1836, two, f., 1.00 each; 1839, uncir., 2.25; two others, 2.87 and 2.12 each; 1840, f., two, 1.50 and 1.60 each; 1843, three, f., 1.25 and 1.50 each; 1844, uncir., 2.00; 1849 and 1850, uncir., 1.37 and 1.50 each; 1857, proof, 5.50; do., uncir., 1.00.

Virginia "Penny," 1773, large planchet, proof, 3.00; Virginia "Penny," 1773, uncir., 2.00; "Unique Vermont Piece," 5.00; Washington Cent, 1791, small Eagle, v. f., 6.50; Medal of John Paul Jones, in Silver, size 40, 6.25.

Priced Catalogues can be obtained of Edward Cogan, 408 State Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

COINS, MEDALS AND CONTINENTAL MONEY.

The Collection of Mr. Benjamin Haines, of Elizabeth, N. J., was sold by Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., New York, on the 11th and 12th of April last; we note the prices of some of the specimens.

U. S. Cents, 1799, poor, \$3.00; 1804, 6.75; 1804, poor, 2.37; 1805, do., do.; 1806, good, 1.75; 1809, fair, 1.25; 1837, uncir., 1.25; Half Cents, 1793, Ob. poor, 1.03; 1802, good, 1.65; Washington Cent, large Eagle, proof, 6.50; Oval Sleeve Button, Silver, Bust of Washington, 3.50; Liverpool Half

Penny, Washington President, 1.50; North Wales Half-penny, Bust of Washington, 2.00; Half Disme, Martha Washington Head, 5.50; Feuchtwanger's Three Cent piece, Rev. Eagle on a Rock, 1837, 5.00; another, Rev. Eagle flying with a snake, 1837, 4.50; Nickel Cent, 1856, fine, 1.60; Greek Silver Coins, Tetradrachms; Pergamus, 6.00; Amyntas, 8.00.

Paper Money of Massachusetts, Bill of Forty Shillings, Nov. 21, 1708, \$7.00; May 31, 1710, Twenty Shillings, 3.00; June 20, 1744, One Shilling, 6.00; Aug. 18, 1775, Two Shillings and Sixpence, 2.13; Aug. 18, 1775, Twenty Shillings and Sixpence, 1.75; Aug. 18, 1775, Forty Shillings, 1.00; Dec. 7, 1775, Eightpence, 1.25; same date, One Shilling and fourpence, 1.50; do., One Shilling and Sixpence, 1.37; do., Three Shillings and Fourpence, 1.37; do. Two Shillings and Eightpence, 1.37; do., Thirty-Six Shillings, 4.00; June 18, 1776, Threepence and Sixpence, two notes, 1.75 each; same date, One Shilling and Threepence, and Ninepence, two notes, 2.25; same date, One Shilling and Eightpence and Three Shillings and Sixpence, 1.75; do., Four Shillings and Fourpence, 1.75; do., Bill of \$4 and \$7, 2.25 each; nine others, 1776-1779, 1.00 to 2.00 each. Quite a full series of the Bills of Conn., R. I., N. H., N. Y., N. J., Penn., Del., Md., Va., N. C., S. C. and Ga., brought from five cents to two dollars each.

Priced Catalogues of the Sale can be obtained of Edward Cogan, 408 State Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

CLEVELAND SALE.

The sale of the Collection of Coins, Medals and Paper Money, Autographs and Books of Edmund Cleveland, of Elizabeth, N. J., took place at the rooms of Messrs. Bangs, Merwin & Co., N. Y., May 7 and 8, 1872. The following are some of the prices:

Greek Tetradrachms, Athens, very fine, \$3.50; Phillip, poor, 2.25; Alexander the Great, 4.00; Lysimachus, 4.50; Hemidrachm of Histiaea, 2.50; Teos, 88c; Athens, 1.13; Victoriatus, 1.25; do., 1.13; Ptolemy Soter, G. B., 1.25; Roman Silver, Denarii, Fabia, 75c; Porcia, 60c; Proclia, very fine, 1.50; Imperial Denarii, 25 to 50c; Roman Brass, Vespasian, fine, 1.25; other brass, 10 to 75c.

English Silver, Robert, Scotch Groat, fine, \$1.38; Charles I. Half Crown, 1.75; do. Oxford Fourpence, 1.00; Commonwealth Shilling, 1.75; Pontefract Castle Siege Shilling, 1.00; George I. Hanoverian Crown, fine, 3.00; George II. Half Crown, fine, 88c; do. Shilling, fine, 60c; Victoria Gothic Crown, proof, 6.75; do. One-Third Farthing, pattern, bronze, 2.75; English Tokens, 5 to 30c.

Canada, Front and Side View of Bank of Montreal Halfpenny, fine, 7.00; "Glorius III. Vis., 'Claudius Romanus,' 1774, rev. 'Delectan Dus,' also 'Glorius III. Vis.' 1771, rev. 'Britain Rule' half-penny, 6c each; the Belleville token, 55c; Mexico, &c., Maximilian Dollar, 1.75; do. 50 cent, 1.13; Peru Dollar, 2.00; Chili Media Decimo, silver, pattern, 35c. Germany, &c., Rudolph Augustus and Anthony Ulrich, Broad Silver Dollar, uncirculated, 2.75; Hesse, William Landgrave, fine, 55c; Hanover, 1666, Quarter Dollar, uncirculated, 1.63; Spain, Silver Pillar Dollar, 1.50; Frederick the Great Medal, 1.50; Medals of J. J. Rousseau, bronze, proof, 2.00; Dr. Kane, 1.50.

Foreign Silver Medals, George III. Funeral, \$2.50; George IV. do., 2.75; Bethnal Green Volunteer Infantry, 3.25; Isaac Newton by Dassier, 2.50; Martin Luther, 6.00; Philip Jacob Spencer, 6.00; The set of French Kings by Caque, 51.80; Old Port of Rome, Cathedral Medal, 4.00.

U. S. Dollars, 1796, a little circulated, \$3.00; 1798, do., 2.10; 1799, do., 2.13; 1841, do., 2.25; Half Dollar, 1814, 1.00; 1826, do., 1.13. U. S. Cents, 1798, fair, 2.25; 1794, fine, 4.00; 1796, good, 2.00; 1799, poor, 2.25; 1822, nearly uncirculated, 1.00; Pine Tree Shilling, very good, 4.00; do. Three pence, 2.13; Oak Tree Sixpence, 2.00; Rosa Americana Penny, no crown, 2.50; do. Half Penny, 1.75; do. Penny with crown, 3.25; Cob dollar, 2.25; Massachusetts Half Cent, nearly uncirculated, 2.50; Auctori Plebis, 1.12; Immunis Columbia, good, 4.75; Kentucky Cent, plain edge, fine, 1.38; do. lettered edge, 2.00; Franklin Press Cent, fine, 1.38.

Medals relating to America, George II. Indian, 3.25; The Queen Anne Vigo Medalet, more particularly described in the *American Journal of Numismatics*, Vol. IV., page 44, uncirculated, 7.00; Admiral Vernon, 1.13; Jernigen Cistern, 1.38; Holland recognition of the U. S., 28.00; Libertas Americana, 6.50. Geographical Medals, Francis I., 1515, "Unus non sufficit Orbis," 2.13; Segunda Epoca, 1.13; U. S. A. Bar Cent, 2.00; 1818 Cent, *incuse*, (probably unique) 3.25; 1836 Dollar, 4.50; Ten Cent Postage Currency, silver, 4.25; Complete Set of Postal and Fractional Currency, 34 pieces, 17.00; \$1.00 Greenback, No. 1, 11.00. Medals, Nathaniel Green, for Eutaw, tin, 3.00; other Revolutionary and 1812 medals, 1.00 to 2.25.

Washington Coins and Medals, Before Boston, \$2.25; Georgius Triumpho, 2.00; "Born Virginia," 8.50; Voltaire, 7.50; Manly, tin, 2.25; Westwood, 5.00; Large Eagle Cent, uncirculated, 5.00; Small Eagle Cent, very fine, 10.00; Liberty and Security, 1795, 2.50; North Wales, 3.00; Benevolent Society, 3.50; Pattern 5 Cent Piece, head to right, "In God we trust," 4.13; Presidential Indian Peace Medals,

about 1.00 each; Buchanan, Rose Medal, 2.85; Lincoln, rev. Bell, 2.25; Lincoln, size 9, brass, 1.50; The Assassination Medal, 1.50; Grant Swiss Medal, 7.50; Army Corps Badges, the set of 31, 2.25 each.

Numismatic Books, Akerman's Coins of Cities and Princes, \$5.00; Anthon's Greek and Roman Antiquities, 4.50; Gouge's Short History of Paper Money and Banking, 2.25; Mudie's National Medals, 2.00; Pinkerton, 1.00 per volume.

The greater part of the collection brought very good prices. The Catalogue is a handsome specimen of typography. Printed on fine tinted paper, large 8vo., pp. 76.

EARLY COPPER CURRENCY IN AMERICA.

When the American Copper Coin is to be struck, it will be necessary, that the genuine British halfpence, or coppers, should pass current here, at 112 1-2 to the dollar, or 15 to the shilling; which is only 4 1-6 per cent more than the rate at which they circulate in Britain. The circulation of the *Birmingham* and other counterfeit and base coin, should be totally suppressed, whereby an end would be put to the iniquitous trade of importing into this country (or manufacturing here) such base coin, and purchasing gold and silver with it, of near four times its intrinsic value (comparing their nominal sums) for exportation; a trade which is carried to a most alarming height, and attended with very dangerous consequences.—*Columbian Magazine*, April, 1788, p. 200.

NEW YORK COPPER COINAGE.

Report of a Committee, *March 3, 1787*:

"They find that there are various sorts of copper coin circulating in this State, the principal whereof are,—

First. A few genuine British half-pence of George II., and some of an earlier date, the impressions of which are generally defaced.

Secondly. A number of Irish half-pence, with a bust on one side, and a harp on the other.

Thirdly. A very great number of pieces, *in imitation of British half-pence*, but much lighter, of inferior copper, and *badly executed*.* These are generally called by the name of Birmingham Coppers, as it is pretty well known that they are made there, and imported in casks, under the name of Hard Ware, or wrought Copper.

Fourthly. There has lately been introduced into circulation, a very considerable number of coppers of the kind that are made in the State of New Jersey. Many of these are below the proper weight of the Jersey Coppers, and seem as if designed as a catch-penny for this market."

Journal of the Assembly, N. Y., 1787, p. 78. See American Museum, Vol. 2, p. 403, Philadelphia, 1789.

* Among these pieces we should place those often met with bearing the inscriptions, "GLORIVS III. VIS;" "GLORIOUS HOWE;" "CORNWAL LIS IND;" "DELECTAN DVS;" "BRITAIN RULE;" "CLAUDIUS ROMANS," &c., &c.

EDITORIAL.

The *Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal* propose to issue a quarterly magazine, to be entitled *The Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Journal*, "illustrative of the early History of Canada and kindred subjects," the first number to appear on the first day of July, 1872. Terms, \$1.50, *Canadian* currency. Subscriptions received by R. W. McLachlan, P. O. Box 864, Montreal, Canada.

In answer to a correspondent, we have to say that copying rare coin is, under any pretence, a bad practice, and liable to abuse.

We have received the report of the first year's proceedings of the Liverpool Numismatic Society, [England.] The Society was organized December, 1870. The present officers are Mr. E. Leighton, *President*; G. H. Ahlborn, J. Harris Gibson, F. J. Jeffery, *Council*; Mr. Henry Ecroyd Smith, *Curator*; Mr. David Thom. Stewart, *Sub-Curator*; Mr. Henry F. Brown, *Librarian*; Mr. Heywood Chapman, *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer*.

Mr. Edward Cogan, 408 State Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., has been named by the Messrs. Wyon, the celebrated engravers of London, as their agent to procure subscribers for the medal in commemoration of the recovery of the Prince of Wales. The price in gold is \$125; silver, \$10.50; and bronze, \$3.75.

We have received from Mr. Alfred Sandham, a copy of his *Supplement to Coins, Tokens and Medals of the Dominion of Canada*. Montreal, 1872, pp. 11. It gives an account of many interesting pieces, including the description of a very rare French coin, struck in 1670, for circulation in Canada, a copy of which was presented to the *Boston Numismatic Society*, by Mr. George F. Ulex, of Hamburg, Germany, and shown at the meeting in January last. It also contains a chart of engravings, which is of great value to collectors. Mr. Sandham is well known to the readers of the *Journal* as an accurate scholar in Canadian numismatics, and we always welcome anything from his pen.

Description of the Paper Money issued by the Continental Congress of the United States and the several Colonies. Philadelphia, 1871. Small quarto, pp. 24. The above pamphlet, issued by Mr. J. W. Haseltine, contains seven fac-similes of Notes of New Jersey, Vermont, New York [2], Maryland, South Carolina and Georgia.

Robert Fulton built for the United States, in 1814, a steamer called the "Fulton." "One rule he uniformly observed was to have in use copper and not iron boilers; the latter, he thought, were too liable to explosion, and the explosion of iron he believed, would be very disastrous. Wherefore, the boiler of the 'Fulton,' which vessel was built in the time of the last British war with the United States, when copper was very scarce and dear, was composed in part of the copper of coined cents."

The Hebrew Coin, Medal or Amulet, of which a subscriber sends an account—described in "An Essay on Ancient Coins, Medals and Gems," by the Rev. R. Walsh, L.L. D., &c., London, 1828, was noticed in Vol. III, p. 43, of the *Journal*. Prof. Anthon, after investigating the subject, was of the opinion that it was a "fictitious" piece.

CURRENCY.

Truth is the best coin current.

A mite, English, is one-third of a farthing.

A red kind of wood is current in Angola as coin.

A thing sometimes brought to pass—a counterfeit bill.

In Africa the Cowrie, a small shell, is used as currency.

Shipping interest—sending gold to Europe to pay coupons.

A million dollars in gold, according to the figures at the mint, weigh about two tons.

An ornithologist wants to know what sort of eagle flies the highest. Golden eagles fly the fastest, we are sure of that.

Bezant was the name of a gold coin struck at Byzantium in the time of the Christian Emperors.

In Peru, the pod of the Uchu, a species of Capsicum, is used as a coin.

The "Vargas Dollar," coined by the Republican General, Vargas, 1811 and 12, in Mexico.

ERRATUM.

PINE TREE Two-pence, Vol. VI., page 100, for 1762, read 1662.